

Grades Policy

Purpose:

AAI recognizes that grades can wield enormous power over students. Course grades can [influence students' self-esteem and self-worth](#) and impact [how they understand their own identity](#). Grades can also be influential in admissions processes that have a long-term impact on a student's trajectory. Grades communicate something meaningful and important about a student and that student's abilities. Grades provide meaningful measures of subject mastery, growth, or another teacher identified metric. According to psychometrics, the science of measuring mental capacities, validity is one of the most critical aspects of measurement. Validity, as it [applies to course grades](#), requires students, parents, teachers, and institutions to ask if grades mean what we think and say they mean. Thus, the purpose of articulating a grade policy is to delineate the validity of AAI course grades.

Policy:

Course Grading: The American Academy of Innovation utilizes the following individual letter and numeric grading system for term and semester grades. Grade point averages are computed on the following scale with points computed for each course attempted:

90 – 100%	A	4 points	4.0
80 – 89%	B	3 points	3.0
70 – 79%	C	2 points	2.0
60 – 69%	D	1 point	1.0

Students must demonstrate proficiency on at least 80% of the assigned/taught standards during the specified grading period to qualify for alpha-numeric course grades and course credit for the designated term. Course grades are simply the average of all the assessed standards in a given grading period. Students may be awarded additional credit/grades based on performance and pacing. Failure to demonstrate proficiency on 80% of the assigned/taught standards will result in an Incomplete grade for the grading period.

The following symbols may also appear on the student's transcript. These grades do not bear grade points and are not used in computing the grade point average (GPA):

INC =	Incomplete, did not demonstrate proficiency on 80% of assigned/taught standards
P =	Pass, credit awarded
F =	No Pass, no credit
W =	Withdrawn
NG=	No Grade, marker used to withhold alpha-numeric grades until Emotional Quotient Standards are addressed

Please note:

- All courses assessed will appear on the transcript.

- AAI will update transcripts to reflect the highest earned grade for the designated course/grading period and will use the highest course grade in the calculation of the cumulative GPA.
- Each student and parent/guardian have secured access to a Student Information System account where they can access grades within one week of the course end date.

Capstone Completion: Students must fulfill all requirements of the Capstone course in order to graduate from AAI. Students who do not complete all the requirements of the Capstone course are not eligible for AAI graduation.

Incomplete Grades: Being a Competency Based school, AAI recognizes the need for varied pacing, additional supports, and flexible timelines regarding student work. Therefore, incomplete grades are viewed as placeholders for students who require some reasonable intervention to assist with competency on course standards. Students who receive an "I" must complete and submit the Incomplete Grade Contract detailing the interventions, supports, and commitments from the student and teachers for earning course grades.

Incomplete grades are not available in the following courses: Capstone courses, Work Study, Internships, and Immersions.

Grade Record Change: A faculty member, department team lead, or group of administrators may initiate an official grade change after official grades are posted to the transcript. Grades may also be changed from an "I", "NG", "F" to an earned grade.

Grade Appeal: Students and parents have the right to appeal a final course grade they allege to be the result of arbitrary or capricious grading. "Arbitrary and capricious grading" is defined in the following manner:

1. A grade assigned on some basis other than competency on course standards or performance in the course.
2. A grade assigned through significant deviation from criteria stated in the course syllabus, assessment rubrics, or articulated by the faculty member.
3. A grade assigned by resorting to standards significantly different from those applied to other students in the course.
4. A grade assigned as a result of vindictiveness or discrimination.

To appeal a final course grade, the student or parent must:

1. Outline the claim of arbitrary and capricious grading in an email to the principal, counselor, and faculty member who awarded the grade.
2. Attend the scheduled appeal meeting.
3. Present and provide a written rationale and documentation for the grade dispute.
4. Provide statements regarding the arbitrary and capricious grading, and detail desired outcomes.

The grade appeal team will deliberate, discuss the implications of the claim, seek additional evidence, ask clarifying questions and determine the next course of action. The deadline for appealing grades in this manner is week 2 of the term immediately following the term of the final course grade being appealed.